



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

JUN 13 2003



REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

Michael P. Vondra
Chairman
DuPage Water Commission
600 East Butterfield Road
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126-4642

Re: Downers Grove Groundwater Contamination

Dear Mr. Vondra:

As you are likely aware, the U.S. EPA has been working with potentially responsible parties at the Ellsworth Industrial Park, with the State of Illinois, with the Village of Downers Grove, and with DuPage County to arrange for expedited hookup of approximately 800 homes located mainly in unincorporated Downers Grove to public water supply. The drinking water wells at these homes are contaminated with, or threatened by, significant levels of volatile organic compounds present in groundwater.

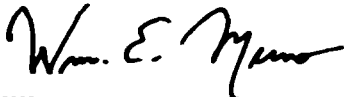
These residents will be required to hook up to the Village of Downers Grove's public water system as a measure to protect public health and safety. Because this contamination is present through no fault of the residents, U.S. EPA has been working to find as many sources as possible to pay for hookups for those residents. U.S. EPA and the other parties are finalizing agreements where currently the only costs of hookup for the homeowners would be a service fee of approximately \$2,000 required by the Village of Downers Grove to obtain its recapture charges. The remaining costs of the hookups would be paid by the potentially responsible parties, by a grant from the State of Illinois, and by funds from a U.S. EPA grant to DuPage County. A significant portion of the funds will initially be borrowed from the Commission by the Village of Downers Grove, with the repayments of up to \$4.275 million to be made by the potentially responsible parties on behalf of the residents. Downers Grove has also agreed to waive any annexation requirements to help ensure that these hookups can move forward quickly.

Delivery of a safe, dependable source of drinking water to residents of DuPage County is a fundamental goal of the DuPage Water Commission. As a result, I am writing this letter to inquire whether the Commission would consider funding a portion of the hookup costs for these residents so that they would not be required to pay any out-of-pocket expenses for hookup to a safe drinking water supply. Specifically, I am asking if the DuPage Water Commission could fund the Downers Grove service fee for the residents who will be hooked up (and also fund this fee for the residents who have already paid for hookups out of their own pocket since health advisories were issued in 2001). In addition, I am writing to inquire whether the DuPage Water Commission would consider providing further funding in the event the other sources described

above are not sufficient to cover the remaining costs of hookup. (We currently expect that these sources of funding should cover all, or virtually all, other costs but contingencies could create a shortfall.) This request for funding to help provide safe drinking water would be in addition to the loan program that the Commission has generously made available to help finance construction costs.

I appreciate your consideration of the U.S. EPA's request, and would be happy to answer any questions you may have and to provide any supporting information you need.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wm. E. Muno". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

ROBERT J. SCHILLERSTROM
COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN



DuPage County

(630) 682-7282

August 4, 2003

Dear Homeowner:

I believe every resident of DuPage County should have access to a clean and safe water supply. Working together, county and municipal representatives have established a loan program to assist homeowners with contaminated wells to hook up to a public water supply without forced annexation.

In your area, approximately 800 homes are potentially impacted by contamination. The cost to provide residents with public water is approximately \$5.5 million. The USEPA, working with local businesses that have contributed to this contamination, has secured a commitment from these parties in the amount of \$4.3 million. In addition, the State of Illinois is contributing \$580,000 to the project and DuPage County has agreed to cover projected cost overruns up to \$400,000.

In order to lessen the financial burden on homeowners, a federal appropriation of \$431,000 has been obtained by Congresswoman Judy Biggert. These dollars will be applied to infrastructure costs associated with the construction project. DuPage County is grateful to Congresswoman Biggert for sponsoring this federal grant.

In order to proceed with this project in a timely manner, please plan to attend a homeowners meeting scheduled for **August 13, at Downers Grove North High School auditorium, at 7:00 p.m.** At this meeting county staff will disseminate further information about the project and respond to any questions you may have.

Our goal remains to provide a safe and reliable water supply for all citizens. I appreciate your patience and support and stand ready to provide whatever assistance you may need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert J. Schillerstrom". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "S".

Robert J. Schillerstrom
Chairman
DuPage County Board